

Chapter 1 : Flee the Captor - Herbert Ford - Google Books

*Flee the Captor [Herbert Ford] on calendrieldelascience.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. The story of John Henry Weidner, a hero of history's greatest holocaust, who saved the lives of Jews.*

Early life[edit] Johan Hendrik Weidner Jr. Although his birth name was Johan Hendrik, he used to call himself "Jean" and later in the U. His father Johan Hendrik Weidner Sr. Around this time he went to Geneva to attend sessions of the League of Nations , and saw firsthand how ineffective that body was in preventing the outbreak of war in . With the subsequent German occupation of France he fled with several others from Paris to Lyon in the unoccupied part of France. Because he had to abandon his Parisian business, he began a new business in Lyon. In , Jean founded " Dutch-Paris ", an underground network of which the location of his Lyonnaise textile business soon became its headquarters. In order to get passes to go in and out of the Swiss frontier zone, he set up a second textile shop in Annecy at the end of . Dutch-Paris became one of the largest and most successful underground networks for people persecuted for faith or race, Allied pilots, and persons of great Dutch importance to help them escape via Switzerland and Spain. This escape route was also used for smuggling documents. In the Netherlands this message line was also known as "The Swiss Way". In its heyday, people were part of this underground network, of which about people were arrested. The escape route has greatly contributed to the French Resistance , and is responsible for the rescue of more than 1, people, including Dutch Jews and more than downed Allied pilots. Jean was one of the most sought after underground leaders of France, for whom the Gestapo at one time offered a reward of five million francs for his arrest. Arrests[edit] In February , a young female courier was arrested by the French police and extradited to the Gestapo. Against all rules, she had a notebook with her containing names and addresses of Dutch-Paris members. She was brutally interrogated by a guard that held her head under cold water until she nearly drowned. Under torture she revealed many names of key members of the underground network. She was arrested by the Gestapo and imprisoned at the Fresnes prison in Paris, because it was hoped for that her comrades would try to free her. She later died of the effects of malnutrition, only a few days after liberation by the Russians. During the occupation, Jean was arrested by both French gendarmerie and French Milice , including the Swiss border police. The French gendarmerie beat him up brutally, but they had to release him later due to lack of evidence. In another arrest by the Milice in Toulouse he was tortured, but he managed to escape before they could transfer him to the Gestapo. The Gestapo were never able to get a hold of him. His service was in charge of vetting all the Dutch citizens in France and Belgium to look for any that collaborated with the Germans. Therefore, it has never become entirely clear under whose direction he fell. In mid , Jean was suddenly dismissed by the Dutch government, arguing that they needed a professional policeman on the post. In he emigrated to the United States, eventually settling in California where from he and his wife Naomi operated a chain of health food stores.

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Flee the Captor. This is one of my favorite books. John Henry Weidner was raised on the Swiss French border. His family would take Sabbath walks from France into Switzerland prior to the war. He was very athletic and an excellent hiker and skier. When World War II broke out he guided for no money many Jews to freedom and allied pilots.

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Chapter 4 : Johan Hendrik Weidner - Wikipedia

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Flee the captor. [Herbert Ford] -- The story of the French Jean Weidner, the head of a resistance group, who saved the lives of many Jews during the Nazi occupation of France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

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